



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Temporary Area Closure Implemented To Protect Wintering Elk**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a temporary area closure will be in effect beginning January 13, 2005, to protect a wintering elk herd in the southeastern portion of Grand Teton National Park. The temporary closure includes park lands that lie north of the Gros Ventre River, east of Highway 26/89/191, and west of Mormon Row. It also encompasses the southern flanks and areas south of Blacktail Butte (**see attached map**).

A number of elk are wintering in the sagebrush flats that lie between the Gros Ventre River and Blacktail Butte. These elk are able to forage on grasses and other food sources that are available due to a fairly shallow snow pack with loosely compacted layers. Elk will likely stay in this area until snow conditions change or the National Elk Refuge begins its supplemental feed program. Therefore, the temporary closure will remain in effect until further notice.

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identify this area as a part of the Jackson Hole elk herd's critical winter habitat. Closing park lands to protect wintering wildlife from human disturbance will reduce unnecessary stress on elk during harsh winter conditions.

Observance of this temporary wildlife closure is mandatory and any violations of the closure may result in a citation.

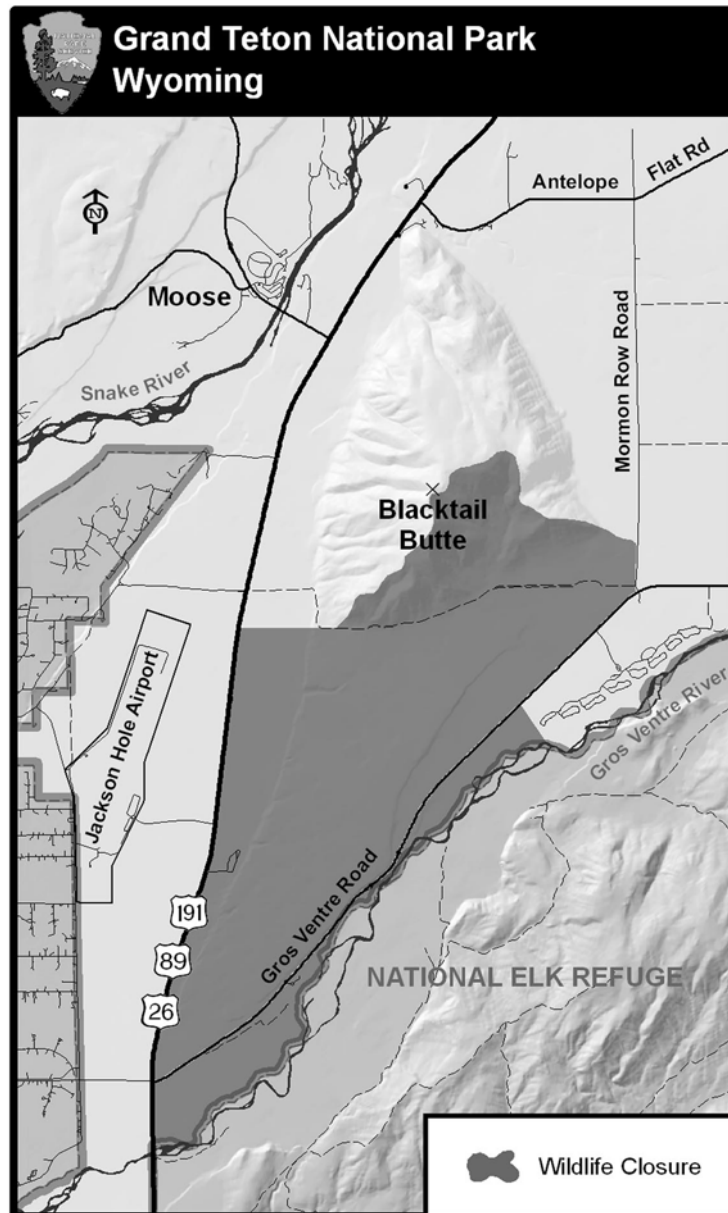
In addition to this temporary area closure, each winter Grand Teton closes several locations in the park to protect wintering wildlife. Those areas include:

- Snake River floodplain from Moran to Menors Ferry near Moose**
- Buffalo Fork River floodplain within the park**
- Kelly Hill and Uhl Hill**
- Willow Flats**
- Static Peak**
- Prospectors Mountain**
- Mount Hunt – specified areas**

To obtain a map of the new temporary closure area, or a map that highlights all winter closures in the park for the purpose of wildlife protection, visitors may stop by the Moose Visitor Center or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte/pphtml/maps.html](http://www.nps.gov/grte/pphtml/maps.html) (all winter closures) and <http://www.nps.gov/grte/news/news.htm> (temporary closure area).

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

## Temporary Area Closure Map



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